

## Hettrick Piker Beside Hanley, Untermeyer Says

**Declares His \$300,000,000  
Plumbers' Supplies  
Combines Have Strangle-  
hold on Entire Country**

**Collins Charge Denied**

**La Guardia Tells Lockwood  
Board He Never Approved  
Signing Blank Reports**

Frank S. Hanley, of 561 Broadway, was disclosed before the Lockwood committee on housing yesterday as the moving spirit behind several gigantic plumbing supply organizations of national scope which Samuel Untermeyer, the committee's counsel, asserted had a strangle hold on the building industry of the entire nation.

Contrasted with Hanley, Mr. Untermeyer said John T. Hettrick, of "code-of-practice" fame, was a "piker." The organizations, under Hanley's wing, comprising more than a thousand manufacturers and jobbers of plumbing materials covering the entire country, asserted Mr. Untermeyer, "put the Hettrick 'code of practice' operations into the shade." It was estimated that the total annual business of these combinations was \$300,000,000.

Mr. Untermeyer digressed for a moment in the course of yesterday's hearing to urge jail sentences for the members of the Association of Dealers in Masonry Building Materials and the brick manufacturers who have pleaded guilty to violations of the Donnelly anti-trust laws. Among the individuals involved were John A. McCarthy, intimate friend and former business partner of Charles F. Murphy, Tammany boss, and Wright D. Goss, the so-called "brick king."

The entire benefit of this investigation is not to be gained, said Mr. Untermeyer to the Lockwood committee on housing, "unless substantial jail sentences are imposed upon men who have been in combinations of this character, such as the brick manufacturers and the dealers in building materials, who have been the most defiant and the most harmful of all these organizations."

The committee will go into executive session this morning and will then make known its stand in connection with the matter.

F. H. La Guardia, President of the Board of Aldermen, threw some additional light on the water meter scandal. He had requested that he be heard and was armed with a bundle of correspondence bearing on the meter affair.

La Guardia said that the statement of Alderman William J. Collins, Democratic floor leader, in explanation of the alleged alteration of the General Welfare Committee's report, to the effect that the signing of blank reports by members before they were filled in by clerks was generally approved by La Guardia, was untrue.

"In the first place," said La Guardia, "I had nothing to do with such reports until they reached the Board of Aldermen in completed form. I wasn't presiding when the matter came up for final consideration, but if I had been I would undoubtedly have sent it back into committee."

Mr. Untermeyer asked why he sent the Badger meter proposition into the Welfare Committee instead of the Public Buildings Committee, where it originally had been considered.

"When I came into office," said La Guardia, "I found correspondence from the Badger meter proposition in the request for the admission of their meter to use in this city in competition with the members of the water meter combine had died in the Building Committee. The matter was again brought

before the board at my suggestion, and in order to have it considered on its merits, I referred it to the Welfare Committee."

"You did that to take it out of the hands of Alderman Kenneally?" asked Mr. Untermeyer. Kenneally was chairman of the Building Committee. On Tuesday he refused to waive immunity when asked to testify on the stand.

"Yes," replied La Guardia. In connection with the uncovering of the plumbing combine it was intimated by Mr. Untermeyer that the old "bath-tub trust," which had been dissolved by the United States Supreme Court, had been revived under the guise of the Enamel Ware Manufacturers' Association, one of the Hanley brood of combines.

By what process did they emerge from their illegal organization to membership in the new organization, asked Mr. Untermeyer.

Hanley replied he did not know, but supposed that the new body was made up of the old Bath-tub Trust membership. As the headquarters of the enamel ware association is in Pittsburgh, beyond the reach of the state authorities, he would try to obtain the data and constitution of the body from the latter city.

Mr. Untermeyer warned Hanley at the outset of the hearing while he was immune to state prosecution, he was not exempt from prosecution by the Federal authorities where his organizations have national ramifications.

The organizations comprising the Hanley group are:

1—The National Committee of Confederate Supply Associations, with which are affiliated the Central Supply Association, the Eastern Supply Association, the Sanitary Pottery Association, the Enamel Ware Manufacturers' and Range Boilers' Manufacturers' Association.

2—The Eastern Supply Association of New York.

3—The Plumbers' Supply Association of New York.

4—The Greater New York Association of Jobbers in Plumbing and Steam Heating Supplies.

Hanley admitted sending out a market letter to the members of this last-named association, in which were quoted the "prevailing prices" of articles in the trade. He said he obtained this information from some members and sent it out to all the others. Mr. Untermeyer charged that the purpose of this was to bring about uniformity of prices.

Hanley stopped sending out the market letters on October 5, 1920, because of the "twilight zone" in which, he said, matters of that kind at that time were, referring to the dispute as to their legality. The association, however, is still continued as a "dining association for social purposes," he declared.

"Frequently getting Dr. Royal S. Copeland, Health Commissioner, and other notables to address them."

Two jobbers, Abraham Hurwitz,

head of the firm of A. Hurwitz Company, Inc., 133 East Broadway, and Charles Schlosser, of M. Schlosser & Son, 208 East Thirty-fourth Street, testified to having great difficulty in getting plumbing supplies because they were not members of the association. Hurwitz said Hanley has asked him to join, pointing out that the uniformity of prices would help his business. Hurwitz didn't join and when he tried to get some material from jobbers in 1918 he was turned down. He named the firm of Gassner & Sons as one of the concerns that refused to give him goods because of his non-membership in the association.

Schlosser said his firm was a member for six months and then withdrew because it could afford to charge lower prices for its supplies and still make a fair profit. He also told of being refused goods after the withdrawal of his firm from the association.

The hearings will be continued today.

## 'Hammer of Lord' Served With Dispossession Notice

**Mrs. Tinsley's Stand Against  
Rent Raise Affects Other Ten-  
ants in Aeolian Hall**

Mrs. Lella M. Tinsley, who became the "Hammer of the Lord" for the chastisement of landlords when \$187 a month was demanded for her \$100 suite on the fifteenth floor of Aeolian Hall, announced yesterday that she had received a dispossession notice requiring her to appear May 10 in the Municipal Court at Madison Avenue and Fifty-ninth Street.

She expects to do a lot of writing before that time and to get in some good blows for the cause of office building tenants. The agents of Aeolian Hall said they were compelled to take the steps they did because of the influence Mrs. Tinsley's example had on other tenants, who also were refusing to pay the increased rent. Mrs. Tinsley hopes that the same pair of dear, kind men who served the dispossession notice will take her to court and hear the proclamation she intends to read.

"The notice was served by two fine-looking marshals," she said, "and when I went forward to greet them as welcome, though belated, guests each looked as if he were sorry he had been selected for the job. With becoming cordiality, however, I invited them into my private office and it required only a few words for them to understand the situation."

"Instantly they became my stalwart friends. When they left one of them said to me, 'Now, Mrs. Tinsley, if we have to come in and pick you up and put you out we are going to put on white silk gloves to do the job!'"

## Husband Only Witness Left In Stokes Suit

**Case Closed Until Million-  
aire, Who Has Pleurisy, Is  
Able To Be Examined in  
Wife's Separation Action**

**Verdict Likely by July 1**

**Writing Expert Declines to  
Say Room Numbers on  
Register Had Been Altered**

After hearings extending over nearly six weeks the trial of the Stokes case was closed yesterday with the exception of the examination of W. E. D. Stokes, who is suing for divorce, and who will be called as a witness by counsel for Mrs. Helen Elwood Stokes, who is suing for a separation. Mr. Stokes is said to be suffering from pleurisy and will appear for questioning as soon as he recovers. Action has been adjourned without date. Justice Finch gave counsel thirty days to exchange briefs, and announced that he expected to decide the case about July 1.

Expert testimony was given yesterday as to whether it was physically possible for Zenas Matteosian and his wife, Mrs. Mabel Matteosian, to have seen Mrs. Stokes in the apartment of Edgar T. Wallace, at 18 East Thirty-fifth Street, as they testified they did, from the roof of an extension on a floor above where the Matteosians lived.

Herbert C. Smyth, of counsel for Stokes, sought to give credence to this testimony by placing on the stand Lionel Wurtz, a photographer employed by Mr. Stokes to take pictures at the apartment house where Mr. Wallace lived. The witness was aided in his explanation of the architecture and of his photographs by the use of a

waistcoat model of the house which was brought into court.

**Not Possible, Says Photographer**

Mr. and Mrs. Matteosian said they had seen Mrs. Stokes standing at a dresser between the two north windows of the Wallace apartment. Several of the photographs taken by Mr. Wurtz showed a man standing in the room near the north wall of the building. Upon cross-examination the witness admitted it would have been impossible from the coping of the extension to see or take a photograph of any one standing within the room in the position mentioned by the witnesses for Mr. Stokes.

Mr. Wurtz also testified that experiments had been made with various cameras to obtain the effects desired by Mr. Stokes.

Carroll H. Pratt, an architect who supervised the making of the model of the house, testifying as an amateur photographer, said he believed it would have been possible to take a photograph from the coping of the roof of the extension, but that no such picture had been made.

A photograph of a page from the register of the Eates Park (Col.) Hotel also figured in the case yesterday, and John V. Haring, a handwriting expert, was called by counsel for Mr. Stokes to give his opinion as to whether any changes had been made in the room numbers beside the names on the register. It had been testified that Mrs. Stokes, her children, her sister and Hal Billig had passed a week-end at the hotel. Francis L. Wellman, chief counsel for Mr. Stokes, tried to show there had been a change in the figures, which read now that Mrs. Stokes, her sister and children occupied rooms 114 and 115 and that Billig had room 323. Mr. Haring declined to say that there had been an erasure, and was brought out that three different hotel clerks had assigned rooms in the hotel on the day Mrs. Stokes and her party and Billig arrived there.

"Did it take three clerks to fix this up?" asked Mr. Smyth.

"Just as many as it took to fix up your case," retorted Mr. Littleton, counsel for Mrs. Stokes.

Justice Finch admonished both lawyers, and said he would inflict a heavy fine on them if they again indulged in personalities.

Stephen O'Brien, formerly a lawyer, who was disbarred in 1916, was offered as a witness by counsel for Mr. Stokes to prove that Mrs. Stokes had visited the apartment of Mr. Wallace, which she has denied. O'Brien said he saw Mrs. Stokes there in May, 1914. The

witness said he had been attorney for Mr. Wallace in a litigation and that he went to his home to collect money due for services. It was on that occasion, he testified, that he saw Mrs. Stokes there. O'Brien added that he had been introduced to the defendant in 1909 or 1910, when she was Miss Elwood, and met her again at the Waldorf-Astoria in 1918 at a time when he was with Wallace. Asked to describe Mrs. Stokes, who was not in the courtroom, the witness said "she was pretty, had attractive eyes and was not a large woman."

Mr. Littleton's examination of O'Brien was brief. "You were disbarred on June 30, 1916, by the Appellate Division, were you not?" Mrs. Stokes' lawyer asked.

"I was."

"That's all."

**Effort Will Be Made to  
Free Woman From Cage**

**Special Dispatch to The Tribune**  
SCHENECTADY, N. Y., May 4.—Saratoga County will make an immediate investigation to reveal the circumstances surrounding the case of Jessie Hall, thirty-one years old, who has been kept a prisoner sixteen years in a cage in the home of her mother, Mrs. Catherine Hall, about 18 miles from here.

An effort will be made at once to obtain Miss Hall's release. She is still held in confinement by her mother. To free her Saratoga authorities will have to tear down the wire netting that encloses the little porch of her "prison" or better down the interior wall erected about the cell the mother calls "Jessie's room."

Edwin Hall, the prisoner's father, died thirteen years ago. He was known about the country as "Cep" Hall. He, too, was under the influence of the mother and even while he lived Jessie had been kept a prisoner just as she is today. It was while he was living that \$15,000 was left to the two daughters by their grandfather, Rice Hall, years ago a well-to-do landholder of Round Lake.

Jessie Hall is still the same sort of prisoner in her cage room that she was on the day William Hennessy, superintendent of the Saratoga Springs Humane Society, first visited the place, after a neighbor had dropped a hint concerning conditions at the home, and the story of Jessie's plight became revealed to the outside world.

After the investigation by physicians and Mr. Hennessy an effort will be made to find the \$8,000 the woman inherited from her grandfather.



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A bracelet, valued at \$35,000, which Mrs. Dorothy Caldwell Taylor, formerly the wife of Claude Grahame-White, lost on Sunday night was returned to her yesterday by George L. Baker, a chauffeur, of 148 First Avenue. Baker received a reward of \$1,000.

The bracelet, which is set with six sapphires, surrounded by diamonds, was lost by Mrs. Taylor as she was entering the home of Mrs. Herbert Shipman, of 438 Madison Avenue. She was about to greet Mrs. Shipman when she missed her bracelet. She notified the company which had insured the jewels and a reward was offered for their return.

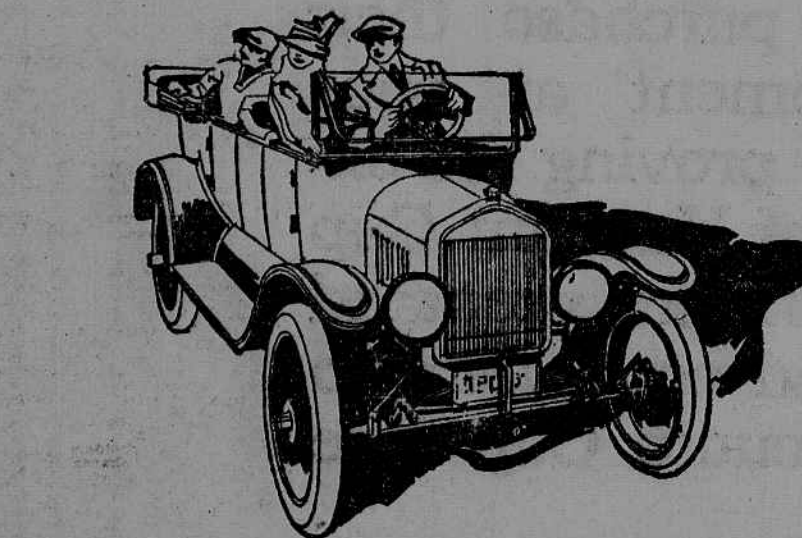
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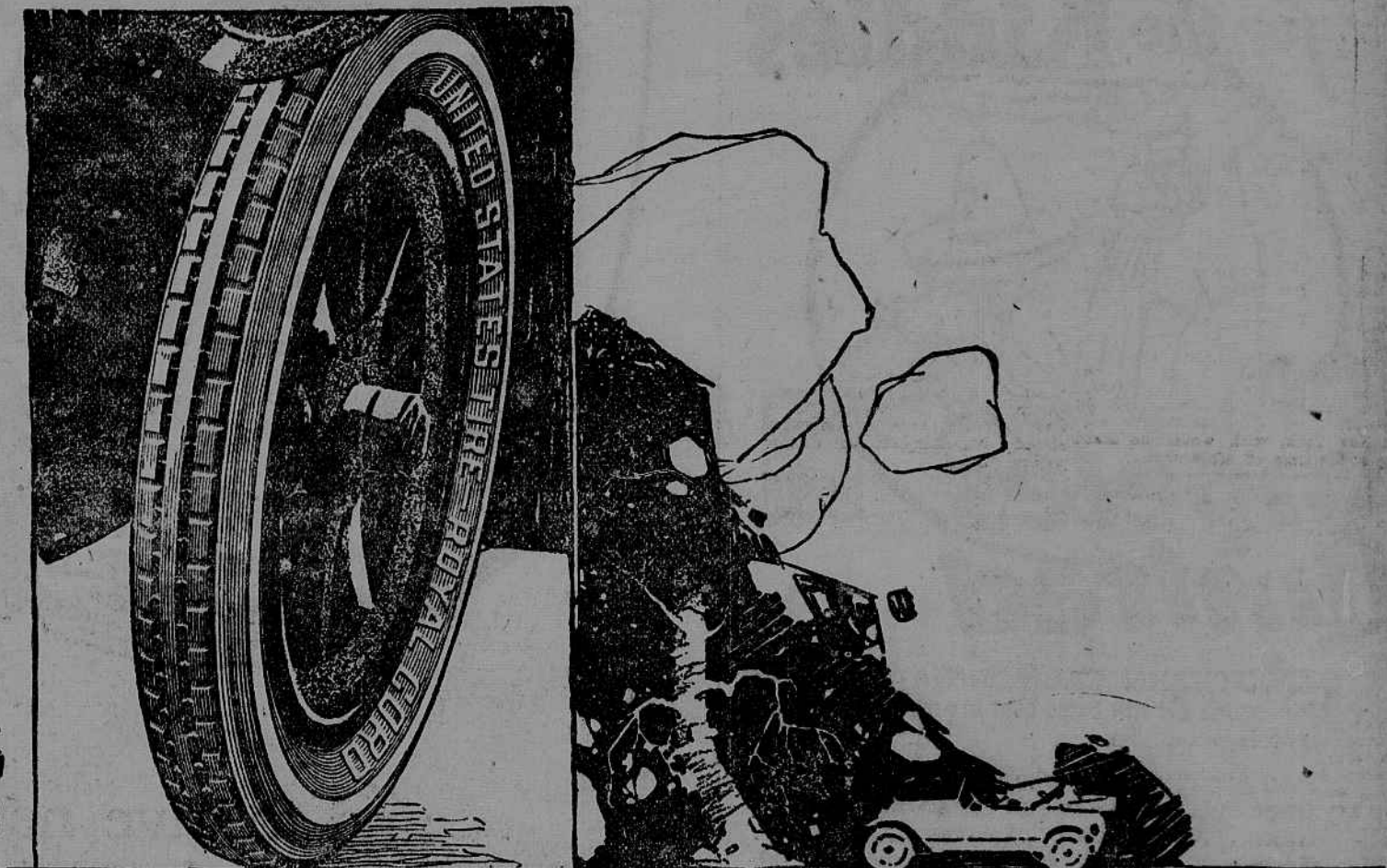
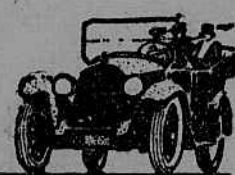
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